

What is claimed is:

1 1. A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system comprising:
2 a twist-lock latch configured to receive a handle of a debris receptacle; and
3 a vertical gasket to facilitate an air-tight seal between the debris receptacle
4 and a canister of the central vacuum system.

1 2. The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the twist-lock latch
2 comprises a contoured ramp configured to guide the handle portion of the debris
3 receptacle into place.

1 3. The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the twist-lock latch
2 comprises a stop detent to fully engage the debris receptacle into a lock position.

1 4. The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the twist-lock latch
2 does not include moving parts.

1 5. The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the vertical gasket
2 comprises a vertical sealing area.

1 6. The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the vertical gasket
2 includes a plurality of horizontal ribs to facilitate reduced friction and drag during
3 engagement and disengagement of the locking mechanism.

1 7. The locking mechanism of claim 6, wherein the plurality of
2 horizontal ribs are located around a periphery portion of the vertical gasket.

1 8. The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the vertical gasket
2 includes a bead roll, the diameter of the bead roll corresponding with a groove formed in
3 an exterior surface of the canister.

1 9. A twist-lock latch for use in a locking mechanism of a central
2 vacuum system, the twist-lock latch comprising:
3 a first shelf portion to provide a resting area for a debris receptacle when
4 the debris receptacle is locked into place; and
5 a stop detent that facilitates proper engagement of the debris receptacle.

1 10. The twist-lock latch of claim 9, further comprising a second shelf
2 portion to provide a clearance area for a gasket.

1 11. The twist-lock latch of claim 9, further comprising a contoured
2 ramp configured to guide a handle of a debris receptacle into place.

1 12. The twist-lock latch of claim 9, further comprising at least one
2 aperture for coupling the twist-lock latch to a canister portion of the central vacuum
3 system via a fastener.

1 13. The twist-lock latch of claim 9 having no moving parts.

1 14. The twist-lock latch of claim 9 configured to latch with a
2 conventional debris receptacle having a handle with a notch formed in a center portion of
3 the handle.

1 15. A vertical gasket employed with a locking mechanism for a
2 central vacuum system, the vertical gasket comprising:
3 a vertical sealing area; and
4 a bead roll formed in the gasket, the bead roll configured to correspond
5 with a groove formed in a canister portion of the central vacuum system.

1 16. The vertical gasket of claim 15, wherein the vertical sealing
2 area includes a plurality of ribs located thereon to facilitate reduced friction and drag
3 during engagement and disengagement of the locking mechanism.

1 17. The vertical gasket of claim 16, wherein the plurality of ribs
2 are located around a periphery of the gasket.

1 18. The vertical gasket of claim 15, wherein the bead roll is
2 formed at an end portion of the gasket.

1 19. A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system comprising:
2 at least one twist-lock latch coupled to a canister; and
3 a vertical gasket coupled to the canister.

1 20. The locking mechanism of claim 19, wherein two twist-lock latches
2 are coupled to the canister at opposing sides.

1 21. A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system comprising:
2 latching means for securing a debris receptacle to a canister; and
3 sealing means for facilitating an air-tight seal between the debris receptacle
4 and the canister.